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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4794
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7422
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0727
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3503
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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Monday morning papers front-paged Sunday's air strike on a Lebanese village by Israeli aircraft that allegedly took the lives of 57 civilians, including 37 children.

¶1. "North Korea Deepens Isolation at ARF" The business-oriented Nihon Keizai editorialized (7/30): "The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) ended after issuing a chairman's statement that not only expressed grave concern over North Korea's missile launches but also called on the DPRK to return unconditionally to the six-party talks. North Korean Foreign Minister Paek hinted at Pyongyang's withdrawal from the forum. The only way for North Korea to end its isolation is to heed the calls of the international community, as voiced unanimously at the UN Security Council, and return immediately to the six-party talks....

¶2. "Pyongyang knew that Foreign Minister Paek would find himself isolated in Kuala Lumpur, but it likely sent him in hopes of sounding out the possibility of contact with Secretary of State Rice. That did not come about. The

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decisive factor in the creation of this unfavorable situation for North Korea was its July 5 missile launches.... There appears to have been no change in North Korea's unwillingness to return to the six-party talks. The US and Japan, as well as other nations, will have to consider additional punitive measures as long as there is no change on the part of Pyongyang."

SCHIEFFER